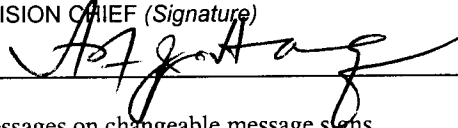


POLICY DIRECTIVE

TR-0011 (REV 3/07/2005)

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS POLICY DIRECTIVE		NUMBER 05-07	PAGE 1 OF 4
ASIF HAQ, ACTING DIVISION CHIEF (Signature) 		DATE ISSUED 03/30/05	EFFECTIVE DATE 03/30/05
SUBJECT Use of safety-related messages on changeable message signs		DISTRIBUTION <input type="checkbox"/> All District Directors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Deputy District Directors - Traffic Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Deputy District Directors - Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> All Deputy District Directors - Construction <input type="checkbox"/> All Deputy District Directors - Design <input type="checkbox"/> All Deputy District Directors - Transportation Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Chief, Division of Engineering Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Counsel, Legal Division <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publications (California Supplement Website) http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/signtech/mutcdsupp/index.htm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Headquarters Division Chiefs for: System Management Operations	
DOES THIS DIRECTIVE AFFECT OR SUPERSEDE ANOTHER DOCUMENT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		IF YES, DESCRIBE	
WILL THIS DIRECTIVE BE INCORPORATED IN THE MUTCD 2003 CALIFORNIA SUPPLEMENT? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		IF YES, DESCRIBE Section 2A.07 - Changeable Message Signs	

DIRECTIVE

The existing MUTCD 2003 California Supplement Section 2A.07 is deleted, as shown below, thereby allowing the use of safety-related messages on changeable message signs in accordance with the MUTCD 2003.

Section 2A.07 Changeable Message Signs**Standard:**

~~In Paragraph 6 ("Changeable message signs, both ...") first sentence, the phrase "...safety or..." is deleted and in Paragraph 7 ("Examples of safety messages...") the first sentence is deleted. On State highways, safety-related messages shall not be used on changeable message signs.~~

POLICY DIRECTIVE

TR-0011 (REV 5/11/2004) Page 2

IMPLEMENTATION

This directive applies to the use of changeable message signs on all roadways open to the public in California.

☐ If checked, see continuation page(s).

DELEGATION

Persons or entities responsible for operating and maintaining changeable message signs on all roadways open to the public in California.

☐ If checked, see continuation page(s).

BACKGROUND

This directive adopts FHWA's entire MUTCD 2003 Section 2A.07, without any modifications, for California. This MUTCD section is reproduced in its entirety below for easier reference:

Section 2A.07 Changeable Message Signs

Standard:

To the extent practical, changeable message signs, which are traffic control devices designed to display variable messages, shall conform to the principles established in this Manual, and with the design and applications prescribed in Sections 2E.21, 6F.02, and 6F.55.

Guidance:

Except for safety or transportation-related messages, changeable message signs should not be used to display information other than regulatory, warning, and guidance information related to traffic control.

Support:

Changeable message signs, with more sophisticated technologies, are gaining widespread use to inform road users of variable situations, particularly along congested traffic corridors. Highway and transportation organizations are encouraged to develop and experiment (see Section 1A.10) with changeable message signs and to carefully evaluate such installations so that experience is gained toward adoption of future standards.

Information regarding the design and application of portable changeable message signs in temporary traffic control zones is contained in Section 6F.55. Section 1A.14 contains information regarding the use of abbreviations on traffic control devices, including changeable message signs.

Option:

Changeable message signs (including portable changeable message signs) that display a regulatory or warning message may use a black background with a white, yellow, orange, red, or fluorescent yellow-green legend as appropriate, except where specifically restricted in this Manual for a particular sign.

Changeable message signs, both permanent and portable, may be used by State and local highway agencies to display safety or transportation-related messages. State and local highway agencies may develop and establish a policy regarding the display of safety and transportation-related messages on permanent and changeable message signs that specifies the allowable messages and applications, consistent with the provisions of this Manual.

Support:

Examples of safety messages include SEAT BELTS BUCKLED? and DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE. Examples of transportation-related messages include STADIUM EVENT SUNDAY, EXPECT DELAYS NOON TO 4 PM and OZONE ALERT CODE RED—USE TRANSIT.

Guidance:

When a changeable message sign is used to display a safety or transportation-related message, the requirements of Section 6F.55 should be followed. The message should be simple, brief, legible, and clear. A changeable message sign should not be used to display a safety or transportation-related message if doing so would adversely affect the respect for the sign. "CONGESTION AHEAD" or other overly simplistic or vague messages should not be displayed alone. These messages should be supplemented with a message on the location or distance to the congestion or incident, how much delay is expected, alternative route, or other similar messages.

Standard:

When a changeable message sign is used to display a safety or transportation-related message, the display format shall not be of a type that could be considered similar to advertising displays. The display format shall not include animation, rapid flashing, or other dynamic elements that are characteristic of sports scoreboards or advertising displays.

POLICY DIRECTIVE (Continued)

TR-0011 (REV 5/11/2004)

DEFINITIONS

When used in this Traffic Operations Policy Directive, the text shall be defined as follows:

- 1) **Standard** - a statement of required, mandatory, or specifically prohibited practice. All standards text appears in **bold** type. The verb **shall** is typically used. Standards are sometimes modified by Options.
- 2) Guidance - a statement of recommended, but not mandatory, practice in typical situations, with deviations allowed if engineering judgement or engineering study indicates the deviation to be appropriate. All Guidance statements text appears in underlined type. The verb should is typically used. Guidance statements are sometimes modified by Options.
- 3) Option - a statement of practice that is a permissive condition and carries no requirement or recommendation. Options may contain allowable modifications to a Standard or Guidance. All Option statements text appears in normal type. The verb may is typically used.
- 4) Support - an informational statement that does not convey any degree of mandate, recommendation, authorization, prohibition, or enforceable condition. Support statements text appears in normal type. The verbs shall, should and may are not used in Support statements.

ATTACHMENTS

None
